

January 2003

State Route 52

Mission Gorge Road to SR-67

■ OVERALL GOALS

- Reduce traffic congestion on I-8 and local arterials
- Increase traffic capacity of the regional transportation system
- Provide direct access between East County communities and job centers to the west and north
- Major link in regional transportation network, known as the inner-loop, which consists of SR-52 to SR-125 to SR-54 back to I-5

■ PROJECT MAP

■ THE PROJECT

Construct 10 miles of four-lane freeway on new alignment from I-15 in San Diego to SR-67 in Santee. The project will be built in five stages. Major features of the project include construction of new roadways, bridges, interchanges, drainage facilities, and environmental mitigation. To date, three of the five stages have been completed. Currently, SR-52 connects I-15 to SR-125.

■ TRAFFIC

The project is expected to ultimately reduce traffic on I-8 by up to 20 percent once the entire route is constructed. Sections of I-8 now carry over 250,000 vehicles a day. Traffic on Mission Gorge Road and other local arterials should also be reduced.

■ ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

Caltrans has provided a 77-acre replacement habitat area for the endangered least Bell's vireo within the boundaries of Mission Trails Park. The final alignment of SR-52 was adjusted to minimize the impact on the sensitive habitat and endangered bird. Also, the freeway alignment was modified to avoid sensitive vernal pools near Santo Road.

■ FUNDS

The major funding for the project will come from the TransNet local transportation sales tax program (Proposition A, 1987), supplemented by other Federal, State, and local funds. The project has an estimated current total cost of about \$367.5 million including property acquisition and construction. The property acquisition or right of way program accounts for about \$200 million of the total project cost.